IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portions, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area

a supply of filamentary material within said housing,

wherein said supply is a reel, and

at least one said wall portion includes a circular aperture,

said circular aperture receiving a bearing portion of said reel such that said reel is rotatably supported between said wall portions with said bearing portions projecting into said aperture.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 1 wherein said dispenser further comprises:

a moveable cover connected with said housing to be moveable between a first operating condition, and a second operating condition, wherein said cover when in said first operating condition encloses said dispensing area, and said cover when in said second operating condition exposes said dispensing area.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said housing includes a dispensing aperture, opening into said dispensing area and within said dispensing area, and

a cutter for severing said filamentary material exiting said housing through said aperture.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 3, wherein said housing has a general shape defined by a boundary and said dispensing area is recessed into said housing to lie wholly within said boundary of said general shape.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in ~~any one~~ claim 4, wherein said cover in said first operating condition, lies substantially within said boundary.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim 5, wherein said cover is slidable between said first operating condition and said second operating condition in a sliding direction, and said sliding direction is substantially parallel to said wall portions.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 6, wherein said cover is biased toward its said first operating condition.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim 5, wherein said cover is pivotally moveable between said first and said second operating conditions, and

the axis of said pivotal motion is substantially perpendicular to said wall portions.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 8, wherein said cover is hinged to a said wall portion, and said cover hinging about an axis parallel to said wall portion.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reel includes indicia on an outer surface, and said outer surface is visible through said circular aperture.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 10~~, further comprising:

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with

radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said ratchet tooth or said track teeth.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 11, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said wall portions include step portions adapted to lap one another and substantially seal around a perimeter of said wall portions.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said wall portions are connected together by a living hinge.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one said wall portion includes a further

aperture adapted to receive an attachment means.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said cover includes one or more surface features to improve grip.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said housing includes at least one guide to direct said filamentary material from said supply to said dispensing area, and

said guide including a plurality of barbs to impede travel of filamentary material through said guide in one direction.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said wall portions are fastened together by a reversible fastening means for example, cooperating snap lock fasteners.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 2, wherein said reel includes indicia on an outer surface, and said outer surface is visible through said circular aperture.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 1 wherein said wall portions are connected together by a living hinge.

Claim 21 (original): A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portions, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area

a supply of filamentary material within said housing, said supply of filamentary material being a reel rotatably supported within said housing,

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said

reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said ratchet tooth or said track teeth.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 21, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 28 ~~any one of claims 28 to 29~~, wherein said wall portions include step portions adapted to lap one another and substantially seal around a perimeter of said wall portions.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim~~s~~ 21, wherein said wall portions are connected together by a living hinge.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one said wall portion includes a further aperture adapted to receive an attachment means.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 21, wherein said cover includes one or more surface features to improve grip.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 21, wherein said housing includes at least one guide to direct said filamentary material from said supply to said dispensing area, and said guide including a plurality of barbs to impede travel of filamentary material through said guide in one direction.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 21, wherein said wall portions are fastened together by a reversible fastening means for example, cooperating snap lock fasteners.

Claim 29 (original): A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portion, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area,

a supply of filamentary material within said housing, wherein said supply is a reel, and

at least one said wall portion includes a circular aperture,

said circular aperture receiving a bearing portion of said reel such that said reel is rotatably supported between said wall portions with said bearing portions projecting into said aperture, wherein said dispenser further comprises,

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said ratchet tooth or said track teeth.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 29, wherein said reel includes indicia on an outer surface, and said outer surface is visible through said circular aperture.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 29, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.

Claim 32 (original): A dispenser comprising:

a substantially closed housing having a pair of oppositely disposed substantially planar wall portion, substantially parallel and spaced apart by less than 6mm, and a dispensing area,

a supply of filamentary material within said housing, wherein said supply is a reel,

a moveable cover connected with said housing to be moveable between a first operating condition, and a second operating condition, wherein said cover when in said first operating condition encloses said dispensing area, and said cover when in said second operating condition exposes said dispensing area, wherein said dispenser further comprises

a rotation limiting means for preventing rotation of said reel in a wind-up direction,

said limiting means comprising a ratchet track having a series of teeth with ramped leading surfaces alternating with radial or undercut trailing surfaces on one of said reel or said wall, and at least one complimentary shaped ratchet tooth on the other of said reel or said wall,

one of said ratchet tooth, or said track teeth being movable,

said track teeth and said at least one ratchet tooth arranged in a meshing relationship and allowing rotation of said reel in an unwinding direction, by movement of one of said movable ratchet tooth or said movable track teeth, to ride over said other of said ratchet tooth or said track teeth.

Claim 33 (currently amended): <u>The</u> ~~A~~ dispenser as claimed in claim 32, further comprising an incomplete ring spacer member located between spaced side walls of said reel,

said ring having a diameter approximately the same as said reel, and said ring having a thickness approximately the same as said space between said side walls,

said ring including indexing means, and at least one of said walls including correspondingly shaped indexing means,

said indexing means engaging to prevent rotation of said ring, wherein said filamentary material passes through a gap in said incomplete ring.